Higher Education AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS

issued by
AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION
1785 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

Bulletin No. Volume IV, Number 6 April 6, 1955

ROTC Loyalty Oath Changed in Form

A change in the form of the loyalty oath required of students on formal enrollment in the basic course of Senior Division ROTC is authorized in a directive issued by the Department of Defense this week. The full text of the directive, preceded by a covering letter to President Arthur S. Adams of the Council, is reproduced below. The letter was dated April 4, 1955.

Dear Dr. Adams:

In your capacity as Chairman of the Reserve Forces Policy Board I have forwarded you a copy of my memorandum of 4 April 1955 to the Secretary of Defense regarding loyalty oaths for members of the Reserve Officers Training Corps.

I know this is a subject of vital concern to you in both that capacity and also in your position as President of the American Council on Education. In this latter position you could be of great assistance to us in advising the members of your council of our new policy, a copy of which I am enclosing for your ready reference.

I believe this new policy represents a vast improvement over our previous method of administering the law while still providing us with adequate measures for ensuring the loyalty of those cadets who are candidates for commissions in the Armed Forces. It is also my hope that it will do much toward relieving the concern which many educators have expressed over our previous policies on this subject. It is to this end that I ask your assistance in promoting an understanding of our new policy throughout your organization.

With kindest personal regards and with special thanks for your help and support, I am

Sincerely yours,

Carter L. Burgess
Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Manpower and Personnel)

DOD Instruction 1 April 195

SUBJECT: Loyalty Certificates for Members of the ROTC

References: (a) DOD Directive 5210.9, Military Security Program. 7 April 1954

(b) Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Memorandum, ROTC Loyalty Certificates, 16 August 1954*

I. Purpose

To provide a uniform policy for the implementation of Section 731 of the Department of Defense Appropriation Act, 1955 which reads as follows: "No part of the funds appropriated herein shall be expended for the support of any formally enrolled student in the basic courses of the senior division, Reserve Officers Training Corps, who has not executed a certificate of loyalty oath in such form as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of Defense."

II. Policy

A. Basic Courses, Senior Division:

Each applicant for formal enrollment in the basic courses of the senior division of the Reserve Officers Training Corps shall be required to execute the following loyalty oath:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign or domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."

Any student who refuses to execute such loyalty oath shall be denied formal enrollment:

Such students as may be required or permitted by educational institutions to undergo militar training and who are not accepted for formal enrollment may receive instruction in the basic courses of the senior division with the approval of the military department concerned. No student who has been denied enrollment by reason of refusing to execute the oath prescribed herein shall be permitte to wear an ROTC uniform nor shall any appropriated funds be expended for his support.

B. Advanced Courses, Senior Division and Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps:

Each applicant for appointment or enrollment in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps or the advanced courses of the senior division, Army and Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps shall be required to execute DD Form 98 as a prerequisite to appointment or enrollment.

An applicant who refuses to sign a DD Form 98 will be denied appointment or enrollment. Each applicant who finds it necessary to qualify his DD Form 98 by an entry of other than "None" or "None to my knowledge" in the remarks section thereof shall be denied appointment or enrollment until such time as a full and complete investigation by the military department concerned discloses that such action would not be prejudicial to the national interest. In this connection, students should be advised to file their DD Forms 98 sufficiently in advance of the dates announced for formal enrollment to permit such investigation if required.

III. Action Required

It is requested that the Director of Personnel Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Personnel) be made an information addressee of implementing directives relating to this policy.

/s/
Carter L. Burgess

*Will be cancelled by this instruction.

Higher Education AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS
A Bulletin Published by
AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION
1785 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

1 1955

ense
ll
r
in

e

e
ance
of

:
ilitar
ourses
has
rmitte

rps
orps

.
e" or
t
loses
nts

ry
s

1955
. C.